



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RABID BAT FOUND IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

Eau Claire, WI, May 19, 2016– The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is warning the public about a rabid bat found in Eau Claire County near Fall Creek on May 15, 2016.

“Rabies is still considered the most deadly disease known to humans. It is also completely preventable with prompt medical treatment,” said Shane Sanderson, Environmental Health Director for the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.



Bats are considered by federal and state health authorities to be of high risk for carrying rabies. In fact, bats replaced skunks as the most common rabies reservoir since 2008 in Wisconsin. Recent data suggest that transmission of rabies virus can occur from minor, seemingly unimportant, or unrecognized bites from bats.

If there has been a potential human exposure involving bats:

- The bat in question should be safely collected, if possible, and submitted for rabies diagnosis.
- Wash the wound immediately with soap and running water.
- Consult a physician immediately, even for minor wounds.
- Contact the Health Department to report the exposure at (715) 839-4718.

cc: Eau Claire County Communications Center

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